

located by observing the parent birds, which were very vocal. After collection, the eggs were covered with cowdung, roasted in a fire made of dry twigs and eaten by the cowherds. Though other predators like dogs, mongoose, snakes and foxes were sighted in the nesting area, the cowherds alone caused a loss of 61% and 8% eggs of redwattled and yellow-wattled lapwings respectively, in the 19 and 10 nests observed for each species.

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11. A NOTE ON THE FEEDING OF LESSER COUCAL (*CENTROPUS TOULOU*)

In 1994, I had discovered a small breeding colony of lesser adjutant stork in Kahala village, about 48 km from Malda, West Bengal. On March 16, 1997, I was watching a parent bird feeding a rather large young one by regurgitation. I saw that some food had slipped to the ground from the nest. About 10 minutes later, when I reached the nest to identify that food item, I found that a lesser coucal *Centropus toulou* (identified by its small size and white tipped tail feathers) was feeding on the same item. In five minutes, it devoured about 1/6th to 1/8th of the morsel. Suddenly a village dog approached and the bird flew away.

On a closer look, the food item was found to be a fish (*Mastacembelus armatus*). According to the HANDBOOK (Ali and Ripley 1987, Compact

Edn. Oxford University Press, Bombay), the lesser coucal feeds almost entirely on grasshoppers, so fish is a new dietary item for this species.

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12. OCCURRENCE OF THE YELLOWBROWED BULBUL *HYPSSIPETES INDICUS* (JERDON) IN THE NALAMALLA HILLS, ANDHRA PRADESH

The yellowbrowed bulbul *Hypsipetes indicus* (Jerdon) is a common resident of Western Ghats affecting evergreen biotopes above 900 m (Ali and Ripley, 1983) and has been recorded from the Eastern Ghats first by Taher *et al.* in 1990 from Tirumala Hills (Taher and Pittie, 1994). Santharam (1992) reported it from Mamandur (Chittoor dist.) and Karthikeyan (1996, 1997) at Kolli Hills (Tamil Nadu). These records indicate that the yellowbrowed bulbul is more or less restricted in

distribution to Western Ghats and has been occasionally reported from southern Eastern Ghats. We report its occurrence from the Nalamalla Hills further north from the hitherto reported range in Eastern Ghats. While birding at Umamahesharam near Mannanur in Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Wildlife Sanctuary (or Rajiv Tiger Reserve), Mahboobnagar dist. during April 1997, we came across a pair of yellowbrowed bulbul busily feeding. The species was easily identified, based